UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SOFER & HAROUN LLP.
317 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 910
NEW YORK, NY 10017

EXAMINER
CHENG, PETER L

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/500,195	BAIRD ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PETER L. CHENG	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>23 June 2008</u>.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-31</u> is/are pending in the application.
     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-31</u> is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>23 June 2008</u> is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
       1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
       2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
       3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1.   The drawings are objected to because:

- the amended **Fig. 2** inadvertently removed the label **Processor(s) 3305** which is mentioned in the specification;

- amended **Fig. 2:** suggest removing the "box outline" around **Unique Attribute Data Module 3410** since the outline was not present in the original figure to convey that **Unique Attribute Data Module 3410** includes both **Unique Attr Set 1 [Patient File] 3420** and **Unique Attr Set 2 [Physician] 3430**;

- **Fig. 20:** the vertical line which emanates from step **730** and connects to step **735** appears incorrect per the *original* specification on **page 36, lines 23 – 24**; that is, step **730** should connect to step **720**;

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an

amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be

canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and

where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes

made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency.

Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the

remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application

must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet"

pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the

applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office

action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Page 3** of the reply to Office Action dated 12/19/2007, regarding **amended**

    paragraph [0101], lines 1 - 2: since the **Customer Information Data**

    Module 3470 is shown in **Fig. 2** instead of **Fig. 13**, suggest replacing

    "Customer Information Data Module 3470 <u>as shown in Figure 13</u> includes

    Customer table 3472" <u>with</u> "Customer Information Data Module 3470 includes

    Customer table 3472 *as shown in Figure 13*";

- **Page 4** of the reply to Office Action dated 12/19/2007, regarding **amended paragraph [0103], line 1:** replace **field AuditLog d** with **field AuditLogId**;

- **Page 4** of the reply to Office Action dated 12/19/2007, regarding **amended paragraph [0103], line 2:** insert a period between **item** and **Field**;

- **Page 4** of the reply to Office Action dated 12/19/2007, regarding **amended paragraph [0104], line 4:** replace **expect** with **except**;

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3.   Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Lines 4 - 5:** suggest replacing **said received plurality of facsimile documents** with **said <u>plurality of</u> received facsimile document<u>s</u>**;

- **Lines 5 - 6:** for clarity, suggest replacing **said received facsimile document** with **<u>each of</u> said <u>plurality of</u> received facsimile document<u>s</u>**;

- **Lines 7 - 8:** for clarity, suggest replacing **each incoming fax document** with **each incoming fax document <u>of said plurality of received facsimile documents</u>**;

- **Lines 9 - 10:** for clarity, suggest replacing **said facsimile documents** with **said <u>plurality of received</u> facsimile documents**;

- **Lines 10 - 11:** for clarity, suggest replacing **said facsimile documents** with **said <u>plurality of received</u> facsimile documents**;

- **Line 11:** suggest replacing **to individual** with **<u>into</u> individual**;

- **Line 13:** for clarity, suggest replacing **said plurality of facsimile documents** with **said plurality of <u>received</u> facsimile documents**;

4.   Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** with respect to **claim 1, line 2**, suggest replacing **said plurality of <u>fax</u> documents** with **said plurality of <u>facsimile</u> documents**;

5.   Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** with respect to **claim 1, line 2**, suggest replacing **said fax** with **said plurality of <u>facsimile</u> documents**;

- **Line 5:** with respect to **claim 1, line 2**, suggest replacing **said fax** with **said plurality of <u>facsimile</u> documents**;

6.   Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Lines 4 - 5:** suggest replacing **said facsimile documents** with **said <u>received</u> facsimile documents**;

- **Line 7:** for clarity, suggest replacing **of said facsimile documents** with **of said <u>received</u> facsimile documents**;

- **Line 7:** suggest replacing **such that images** with **such that <u>said</u> images**;

- **Lines 7 - 8:** for clarity, suggest replacing **in said facsimile documents** with **<u>of</u> said <u>received</u> facsimile documents**;

- **Line 10:** suggest replacing **each of said pages** with **said each page**;

- **Line 10:** **"said plurality of facsimile documents"** lacks antecedent basis; suggest replacing with **said received facsimile documents**;

- **Line 11:** suggest replacing **each of said pages** with **said each page**;

- **Line 11:** per Applicants' comments at the top of **page 21**, Applicants may have intended to cite **individually retrievable <u>using a unique set of attributes</u>** (or similar) instead of **individually retrievable**;

  If so, in **line 13**, suggest replacing **a unique set of attributes** with **said unique set of attributes**;

- **Lines 13 - 14:** suggest replacing **each of said pages in each of said facsimile documents** with **<u>said</u> each <u>page</u> of said <u>received</u> facsimile documents**;

7.   Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Lines 3 - 4:** for clarity, suggest replacing **the identity of each of said entities along with their department and member identification** with **<u>an</u> identity <u>that includes department identifications and member identifications</u> of each of said entities**;

8.   Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 2:** per the suggestion made for **claim 9**, suggest replacing **their departments or members** with **said department identifications or said member identifications**;

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **on destination address of each fax document** with **on a destination address of each of said received facsimile documents**;

9.   Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 2:** suggest replacing **the sender's fax number** with **a sender's fax number**;

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **the incoming fax** with **each of said received facsimile documents**;

10.   Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 2:** suggest replacing **each received fax** with **each of said received facsimile documents**;

11.   Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 2:** suggest replacing **each individual fax page** with **each facsimile page**;

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **each fax page** with **said each facsimile page**;

12.   Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Lines 2 - 3:** suggest replacing **on destination fax number of a received fax** with **on a destination fax number of each of <u>said received facsimile documents</u>**, or **on a destination fax number of <u>a received facsimile document</u>**;

13.   Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **fax document** with **facsimile document**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **manageable** with **managed**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **fax document** with **facsimile document**;

14.   Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Lines 4 - 5:** suggest replacing **splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a separately identifiable** with **splitting <u>said</u> image of <u>said</u> each received fax document into <u>individual images with each image having</u> a separately identifiable**;

- **Line 5:** suggest replacing **in a fax document** with **in <u>said each received</u> fax document**;

- **Line 7:** since **claim 18, line 5** cites only <u>an image</u> **of each page**, suggest replacing **said images of each page of a received fax document** with **said image of each page** <u>in said each</u> **received fax document**;

- **Line 9:** suggest replacing **said fax document** with **said** <u>each received</u> **fax document**;

- **Line 10:** per **claim 18, line 1**, suggest replacing **said received facsimile documents** with **said** <u>plurality of</u> **received** <u>fax</u> **documents**;

- **Line 11:** suggest replacing **said fax documents** with **said** <u>plurality of received</u> **fax documents**;

- **Line 11:** suggest replacing **in accordance to** with **in accordance with**;

- **Line 12:** suggest replacing **said unique attribute set** with **said unique set of attributes**;

- **Line 12:** suggest replacing **said document attribute module** with **said document attribute** <u>manager</u>;

15.   Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 5:** suggest replacing **said fax documents** with **said second fax document**;

16.   Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **anyone of said images of a page within a received fax document** with **any one of said image of each page in said each received fax document** or **any said image of each page in said each received fax document**;

17.   Claim 21 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** per the preamble of **claim 18**, suggest replacing **a plurality of fax documents** with **said plurality of fax documents**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **each entity** with **each of said entities**;

18.   Claim 23 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 2:** per **claim 18, line 3**, suggest replacing **each of said received fax documents** with **said each received fax document**;

- **Line 3:** per **claim 18, line 5**, suggest replacing **each image of each page of a received fax document** with **said image of each page in said each received fax document**;

19.   Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Lines 2 - 3:** per **claim 18, line 5**, suggest replacing **said images of each page of received fax documents** with **said image of each page in said each received fax document**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **said unique attribute set** with **said unique set of attributes**;

20.   Claim 25 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 4:** **"said hospital"** lacks antecedent basis; suggest replacing with **a hospital**;

- **Lines 7 - 8:** suggest replacing **splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a separately identifiable** with **splitting <u>said</u> image of <u>said</u> each received fax document into <u>individual images with each image having</u> a separately identifiable**;

- **Line 8:** suggest replacing **in a fax document** with **in <u>said each received</u> fax document**;

- **Lines 10 - 11:** since **claim 25, line 8** cites only <u>an image</u> of each page, suggest replacing **said images of each page of a received fax document** with **said image of each page <u>in said each</u> received fax document**;

- **Line 12:** suggest replacing **said user** with **said <u>at least one</u> user**;

- **Line 13:** suggest replacing **said user** with **said <u>at least one</u> user**;

- **Line 13:** suggest replacing **said fax document** with **said <u>each received</u> fax document**;

- **Line 14:** per **claim 25, line 1**, suggest replacing **said facsimile documents** with **said <u>plurality of</u> received <u>fax</u> documents**;

- **Line 16:** suggest replacing **said user** with **said <u>at least one</u> user**;

- **Line 16:** per **claim 25, line 1**, suggest replacing **said fax documents** with **said <u>plurality of</u> received <u>fax</u> documents**;

- **Line 16:** suggest replacing **in accordance to** with **in accordance with**;

- **Lines 17 - 18:** suggest replacing **said document attribute module** with **said document attribute <u>manager</u>**;

21.   Claim 26 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **said user** with **said <u>at least one</u> user**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **said previously defined set of attributes** with **said previously defined <u>unique</u> set of attributes**;

- **Line 5:** suggest replacing **said fax documents** with **said additional fax document**;

- **Line 5:** suggest replacing **said user** with **said <u>at least one</u> user**;

22.   Claim 27 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **any one of said images of a page within a received fax document** with **any one of said image of each page in said each received fax document** or **any said image of each page in said each received fax document**;

23.   Claim 28 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** per the preamble of **claim 25,** suggest replacing **a plurality of fax documents** with **said plurality of fax documents**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **said hospitals** with **said plurality of hospitals**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **each entity** with **each of said plurality of hospitals**;

24.   Claim 29 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** suggest replacing **said hospitals** with **said plurality of hospitals**;

25.   Claim 30 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 2:** suggest replacing **each of said received fax documents** with **said each received fax document**;

- **Line 3:** per **claim 25, line 8,** suggest replacing **each image of each page of a received fax document** with **said image of each page in said each received fax document**;

26.   Claim 31 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Lines 2 - 3:** per **claim 25, line 8,** suggest replacing **said images of each page of received fax documents** with **said image of each page in said each received fax document**;

- **Line 4:** suggest replacing **said unique attribute set** with **said unique set of attributes**;

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

27.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

28.   Claims 1 – 11 and 14 - 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by **BOBO [US Patent 5,870,549]**.

As for claim 1, BOBO teaches a fax storage and retrieval system comprising:

a fax receiving module configured to receive a plurality of facsimile

documents from a plurality of fax devices

[**Fig. 13** "central processor" **3**; "The central processor 3 receives the calls on the

DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with

software 7"; **col. 16, lines 57 - 59**];

a display module for displaying to a user, a list of said received plurality of

facsimile documents, and further configured to display each page of said

received facsimile document to said user

[With reference to **Fig. 1**, BOBO teaches that a "user first connects to the

Internet 30, such as through a personal computer 32"; **col. 8, lines 14 – 15.**

"Once connected …, the user accesses with a hyper-text browser the Universal

Resource Locator (URL) associated with his or her MSDS [*Message Storage and*

Delivery System] 10 mailbox"; **col. 8, lines 21 – 23.** That is, the "display module"

corresponds to the personal computer with a hyper-text browser.

With reference to **Figs. 4A** and **4B**, BOBO illustrates five facsimile message

"display options". Each option generates a listing of received facsimile messages

(i.e., documents), and allows a user to view pages of a specific facsimile

message. For example, with the "first option", a "textual listing of the facsimile

messages with anchors or references to the respective facsimile files" is

generated; **col. 10, lines 39 – 41.** "When the user selects one of the facsimile

messages on the list, a request is sent to the HTTPD within the MSDS 10

causing the message to be downloaded via the Internet 30 to the user's

computer 32. Once the message is received by the computer 32, the message

can be displayed, printed, or saved for further review"; **col. 9, lines 55 - 61];**

a document attribute module configured to allow [[a]] <u>said</u> user to

associate each incoming fax document to a unique attribute set <u>related to</u>

<u>at least one feature contained on at least one of said facsimile documents</u>

[BOBO further teaches that "the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository

serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 –**

12.

"An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each

message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are

stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query

language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous

data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a

field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23,**

lines 36 – 45.

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date",
"time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document
number", and "other fields" **309.**

When the "document type" is a facsimile message (**col. 23, line 51**), the related
attributes "recipient's name" **301**, "date" **303**, "time" **304**, "caller's telephone
number" **305** and "number of pages" **307** are *"features"* typically *contained* on a
facsimile document.

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS
(Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a
company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division
at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales,
one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24];**

**a fax page splitter module configured to split images of each of said
facsimile documents to individual image pages**
[With regards to **Fig. 2,** BOBO teaches "when a facsimile message is received,
the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate
the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the
newly received facsimile message according to the user's preferences. When

the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML

information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the

requested information to the user at step 80"; **col. 9, lines 36 – 44.**

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a "synchronous mode of

communication" (**col. 19, lines 18 – 28**) and cites, "When a request for

information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already

been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from

storage 11 and transmit the information to the user's computer 32"; **col. 19, lines

22 – 27.**

A "fax page splitting" process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is

converted into HTML files. "With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile

message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile

(TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file.

Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format

into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into

separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML

files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate

HTML file"; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18.** Furthermore, "each page of the facsimile

message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of

the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of '.TIFF', '.PPM', '.GIF' or

'.HTML' according to the format of the particular file"; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44];**

and a document storage and retrieval system coupled to said fax receiving

module and configured to store each of said pages of said plurality of

facsimile documents such that each of said pages is individually

retrievable <u>using said unique attribute set from said document attribute</u>

<u>module</u>

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile

messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each

page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72,

the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 –**

36. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the

message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile

message, *a page identifier*"; **col. 8, lines 40 – 43.**

When the MSDS is used as a file repository, BOBO teaches that a facsimile

message may be retrieved by searching "data entries" **300** (i.e., "attributes"

shown in **Fig. 17**) "through a structured query language (SQL)"; **col. 23, lines 39**

– 41].

Regarding claim 2, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 1 further

comprising

> **a fax routing module coupled to said fax receiving module,**
>
> **said fax routing module configured to assign fax numbers for an entity**
>
> **intending to *receive* said plurality of fax documents**
>
> [An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO
>
> teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address
>
> for each "user".
>
> With reference to **Fig. 1**, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal
>
> indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; **col.**
>
> **7, lines 18 – 20.**
>
> With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the
>
> MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the
>
> facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56.** "At step 42, the address signal
>
> associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the
>
> DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61.** "The intended recipient
>
> of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter
>
> be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e.,

an "entity")].

Regarding claim 3, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 2

wherein

said fax routing module is further configured to assign fax numbers to

individual departments within said entity

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a *group of*

users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10

may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or

group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

With respect to **Fig. 17** and the "other fields" **309** of a "data entry" **300**, BOBO

later teaches that the "other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize

the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, if the user is a

company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division

at which the message is directed"; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22.** BOBO gives examples

of individual departments as "marketing", "sales", "engineering" and "legal"].

Regarding claim 4, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 2,

wherein

said fax routing module is further configured to assign fax numbers to

individual personnel within said entity

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a *group of*

users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10

may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or

group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12].**

Regarding claim 5, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 2 further

comprising

a fax routing data module coupled to said fax routing module configured to

store said assignment of fax numbers for each entity, along with a

predetermined email address,

so that faxes *transmitted to a particular fax number are routed to a*

***corresponding email address* as specified in said fax routing data module**

[With reference to **Fig. 3**, BOBO further teaches that "once connected with the

Internet 30, at step 62, the user accesses with a hyper-text browser the Universal

Resource Locator (URL) associated with his or her MSDS 10 mailbox"; **col. 8,**

lines 21 – 23. After supplying "his or her ID and password at step 68 and, if

found valid at step 70, the MSDS 10 provides the computer 32 with access to the

mailbox at step 72"; **col. 8, lines 28 – 31.** "The user is also preferably given the

option at this step to change account information. The account information might

include the E-mail address for the user, the manner in which messages are to be

reviewed, the user's pager information, as well as other user preferences"; **col. 8,**

line 64 – col. 9, line 1.

Therefore, in addition to teaching that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a

"user" (i.e., an "entity"), BOBO also teaches that the MSDS assigns an e-mail

address to a "user".

"After the user gains access to the mailbox at step 72, the user can request

information stored within the MSDS 10. The MSDS 10 receives the request at

step 76 and, at step 78, determines whether the information exists"; **col. 8, lines**

34 – 37. "If the requested information is available, then at step 80 the information

is transmitted through the Internet 30 to the user's computer 32"; **col. 8, lines 46**

– 48.

Therefore, faxes intended for a particular fax number are routed to a

corresponding email address as maintained by the MSDS in an "account

information" storage].

Regarding claim 6, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 5

wherein

said fax routing data module is further configured to store department

identification code field for each entity identifying the departments

intended to receive said fax

[As previously noted in regards to the "other fields" **309** shown in **Fig. 17**, BOBO

teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message

Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a *company*, the

company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the

message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for

engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24],**

along with member identification code field for each department identifying

the members intended to receive said fax

[With regards to **Fig. 17**, BOBO also teaches that the "data field" **300** may

"comprise field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"

and that "the person may be identified in numerous ways, such as by a portion of

the person's name or by a unique number"; **col. 23, lines 45 – 49.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that both department and individual member

identification may be included as routing information for a message].

Regarding claim 7, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 6 further

comprising

a document presentation manager configured to retrieve received faxes in

accordance with predetermined attributes

[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a "document presentation" means as

shown in **Fig. 7.** This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a

facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which

references the ".GIF" image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 -**

60].

As for claim 8, BOBO teaches a fax storage and retrieval system configured to

receive[[s]] facsimile documents for a plurality of independent entities, said system

comprising:

a fax receiving module configured to receive images corresponding to said

facsimile documents

[**Fig. 13** "central processor" **3;** "The central processor 3 receives the calls on the

DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with

software 7"; **col. 16, lines 57 - 59];**

a page splitter unit coupled to said fax receiving module configured to

organize said images of said facsimile documents such that images of

each page in said facsimile documents are separately identifiable and

retrievable

[With regards to **Fig. 2,** BOBO teaches "when a facsimile message is received,

the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate

the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the

newly received facsimile message according to the user's preferences. When

the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML

information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the

requested information to the user at step 80"; **col. 9, lines 36 – 44.**

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a "synchronous mode of

communication" **(col. 19, lines 18 – 28)** and cites, "When a request for

information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already

been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from

storage 11 and transmit the information to the user's computer 32"; **col. 19, lines

22 – 27.**

A "fax page splitting" process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is

converted into HTML files. "With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile

message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile

(TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file.

Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format

into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into

separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML

files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate

HTML file"; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18.** Furthermore, "each page of the facsimile

message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of

the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of '.TIFF', '.PPM', '.GIF' or

'.HTML' according to the format of the particular file"; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44];**

a document storage and retrieval system coupled to said fax receiving

module and configured to store each of said pages of said plurality of

facsimile documents such that each of said pages is individually

retrievable

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile

messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each

page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72,

the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 –**

36. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the

message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile

message, *a page identifier*"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43];**

and a document attribute manager unit coupled to said document storage

and retrieval system and configured to associate a unique set of attributes

to each of said pages in each of said facsimile documents <u>related to at</u>

<u>least one feature contained on at least one of said facsimile documents</u>

[BOBO further teaches that "the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository

serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 –**

12.

"An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each

message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are

stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query

language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous

data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a

field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23,**

lines 36 – 45.

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date",

"time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document

number", and "other fields" **309.**

When the "document type" is a facsimile message (**col. 23, line 51**), the related

attributes "recipient's name" **301**, "date" **303**, "time" **304**, "caller's telephone

number" **305** and "number of pages" **307** are "features" typically contained on a

facsimile document.

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS

(Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a

company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division

at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales,

one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24].**

Regarding claim 9, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 8 further

comprising

a categorization module coupled to said fax receiving module and

configured to determine the identity of each of said entities along with their

department and member identification

[As previously noted in regards to the "other fields" **309** shown in **Fig. 17**, BOBO

teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message

Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a *company*, the

company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the

message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for

engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 – 24.**

With regards to **Fig. 17**, BOBO also teaches that the "data field" **300** may

"comprise field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"

and that "the person may be identified in numerous ways, such as by a portion of

the person's name or by a unique number"; **col. 23, lines 45 – 49.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that both department and individual member

identification may be included as routing information for a message**].**

Regarding claim 10, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 9

wherein

> said [[~~identification~~]] <u>identity of any of said entities, their departments or</u>
>
> <u>members</u> **is based on destination address of each fax document**
>
> **[**An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO
>
> teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address
>
> for each "user".

With reference to **Fig. 1**, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal

indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; **col.**

7, lines 18 – 20.

With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the

MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the

facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56.** "At step 42, the address signal

associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the

DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61.** "The intended recipient

of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter

be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e.,

an "entity")**].**

Regarding claim 11, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 10

wherein

> **said categorization module employs the sender's fax number to assign**
>
> **further categorization parameters to the incoming fax**
>
> **[**As shown in **Fig. 17,** BOBO teaches that an incoming fax may be categorized by
>
> the "caller's telephone number" **305**; **col. 23, lines 54 - 55].**

Regarding claim 14, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 8

further comprising

> **a document presentation manager configured to retrieve documents based**
>
> **on destination fax number of a received fax**

[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a "document presentation" means as shown in **Fig. 7.** This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which references the ".GIF" image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 – 60.**

Fig. 7 illustrates a full-page image of a page of a facsimile document which was sent to a "user" of the MSDS. The MSDS associates a "destination fax number" for each user].

Regarding claim 15, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 14 wherein said document presentation manager further comprises

a document display module configured to display each page of a received fax document, such that each page is manageable independently from other pages of the same fax document

[BOBO teaches a document display as shown in **Fig. 7.** Each page is "independently manageable" since in this "fifth option" display mode (**col. 13, lines 12 - 21**), each page is displayed separately. BOBO teaches a way to "navigate" to the "next page" by providing a "link"; **col. 13, lines 19 - 20**].

Regarding claim 16, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 8 further comprising

a fax routing module coupled to said fax receiving module,

said fax routing module includes a fax number procurement module

configured to provide at least one unique fax number for each of said

entities

[An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO

teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address

for each "user".

With reference to **Fig. 1**, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal

indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; **col.**

7, lines 18 – 20.

With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the

MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the

facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56.** "At step 42, the address signal

associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the

DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61.** "The intended recipient

of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter

be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e.,

an "entity")].

Regarding claim 17, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with clam 16,

wherein said fax routing module further comprises

> **a fax number association module configured to associate a generated fax**
>
> **number with a department or an individual within said entity**
>
> [BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a *group of*
>
> *users*, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10
>
> may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for <u>a particular user</u> or
>
> <u>group of users</u>"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

> With respect to **Fig. 17** and the "other fields" **309** of a "data entry" **300**, BOBO
>
> later teaches that the "other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize
>
> the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, <u>if the user is a</u>
>
> <u>company</u>, the company may want to classify messages according to the division
>
> at which the message is directed"; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22.** BOBO gives examples
>
> of individual departments as "marketing", "sales", "engineering" and "legal"].

As for claim 18, BOBO teaches a method for receiving a plurality of fax documents from

a plurality of remote fax machines, said method comprising the steps of:

> **obtaining an image of each received fax document**

[Fig. 13 "central processor" **3;** "The central processor 3 receives the calls on the

DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with

software 7"; **col. 16, lines 57 - 59];**

splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a separately

identifiable image portion so that an image of each page in a fax document

is separately and independently identifiable

[With regards to **Fig. 2,** BOBO teaches "when a facsimile message is received,

the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate

the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the

newly received facsimile message according to the user's preferences. When

the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML

information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the

requested information to the user at step 80"; **col. 9, lines 36 – 44.**

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a "synchronous mode of

communication" (**col. 19, lines 18 – 28**) and cites, "When a request for

information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already

been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from

storage 11 and transmit the information to the user's computer 32"; **col. 19, lines**

22 – 27.

A "fax page splitting" process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is

converted into HTML files. "With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile

message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile

(TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file.

Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format

into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into

separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML

files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate

HTML file"; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18.** Furthermore, "each page of the facsimile

message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of

the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of '.TIFF', '.PPM', '.GIF' or

'.HTML' according to the format of the particular file"; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44];**

displaying to a user said images of each page of a received fax document

[As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile

messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each

page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72,

the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 –**

36. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the

message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile

message, *a page identifier*"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43];**

providing an interface <u>at a document attribute manager</u> for said user so as

to allow said user to assign a unique set of attributes to said fax document

<u>related to at least one feature contained on at least one of said facsimile</u>

<u>documents</u>

[BOBO further teaches that "the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository

serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 –**

12.

"An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each

message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are

stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query

language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous

data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a

field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23,**

lines 36 – 45.

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309.**

When the "document type" is a facsimile message (**col. 23, line 51**), the related attributes "recipient's name" **301**, "date" **303**, "time" **304**, "caller's telephone number" **305** and "number of pages" **307** are *"features"* typically *contained* on a facsimile document.

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a *company*, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24];**

allowing said user to search said fax documents in accordance to at least one attribute within said unique set of attributes using said unique attribute set from said document attribute module

[When the MSDS is used as a file repository, BOBO teaches that a facsimile message may be retrieved by searching "data entries" **300** (i.e., "attributes" shown in **Fig. 17**) "through a structured query language (SQL)"; **col. 23, lines 39 – 41].**

Regarding claim 19, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 18

further comprising

[[the]] a step of receiving a second fax document relating to a previously

defined unique set of attributes

[With respect to a "first fax document" (i.e., document #11) as shown in **Fig. 21**,

BOBO illustrates the reception of a second and a third fax document. Each

document is shown listed with an attribute of the recipient's names (i.e., "Jane

Doe")];

and providing an interface to allow a user to assign said previously defined

set of attributes to said second fax document

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each

message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are

stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query

language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous

data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a

field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23,**

lines 36 – 45.

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date",

"time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document

number", and "other fields" **309.**

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS

(Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a

company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division

at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales,

one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 – 24.**

The ability to customize the MSDS for a user's needs exemplifies an interface

allowing a user to assign previously defined attributes to a second fax

document**],**

such that images of pages of each of said fax documents are accessible to

said user

[BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72,

the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 –**

36. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the

message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile

message, _a page identifier_"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43].**

Regarding claim 20, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 19

further comprising

> **[[the]] a̲ step of providing an edit interface to allow a user to either remove**
>
> **or delete anyone of said images of a page within a received fax document**
>
> [BOBO teaches, "the user may be provided with a greater or fewer number of
>
> options in displaying and retrieving messages. The options are not limited to the
>
> exact forms provided but may permit the user to review or retrieve the message
>
> in other formats. The options may also permit a user to join two messages into a
>
> single message, _to delete portions of a message_ ..."; **col. 20, lines 24 - 30].**

Regarding claim 21, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 19

further comprising

> **[[the]] a̲ step of assigning a unique fax number for a corresponding entity,**
>
> **such that a plurality of entities can receive a plurality of fax documents**
>
> [An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO
>
> teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address
>
> for each "user".

> With reference to **Fig. 1**, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal
>
> indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; **col.**
>
> **7, lines 18 – 20.**

With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the

MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the

facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56.** "At step 42, the address signal

associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the

DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61.** "The intended recipient

of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter

be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e.,

an "entity")**]**;

and providing an interface to each of said entities such that each entity can

have access to fax documents sent to its corresponding unique fax

number

[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a "document presentation" means as

shown in **Fig. 7.** This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a

facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which

references the ".GIF" image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 -**

60].

Regarding claim 22, BOBO further teaches the method in. accordance with claim 21

further comprising

[[the]] a step of assigning a unique fax number to a corresponding

department

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a *group of*

users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10

may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or

group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

With respect to **Fig. 17** and the "other fields" **309** of a "data entry" **300**, BOBO

later teaches that the "other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize

the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, if the user is a

company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division

at which the message is directed"; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22.** BOBO gives examples

of individual departments as "marketing", "sales", "engineering" and "legal"]

and a corresponding member within said department for each of said

entities

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a *group of*

users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10

may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or

group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12].**

Regarding claim 23, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with clam 22

further comprising

> **[[the]] a step of storing each of said received fax documents in a storage**
>
> **unit such that each image of each page of a received fax document is**
>
> **independently retrievable**
>
> [As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile
>
> messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each
>
> page of the facsimile message.
>
> BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72,
>
> the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 –**
>
> **36.** "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the
>
> message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile
>
> message, _a page identifier_"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43].**

Regarding claim 24, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 23,

further comprising

> **[[the]] a step of providing an interface to allow a user to search for said**
>
> **images of each page of received fax documents in accordance with an**
>
> **attribute within said unique attribute set**

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each

message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are

stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query

language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous

data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a

field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23,**

lines 36 – 45.

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date",

"time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document

number", and "other fields" **309].**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

29.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

30.   The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1.   Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2.   Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3.   Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4.   Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

31.   Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over **BOBO [US Patent 5,870,549]**.

Regarding claim 12, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 11

wherein

said categorization module generates a serial number used to visually

differentiate each received fax in a user interface based on date *and time* of

receipt

[As shown in **Fig. 17,** BOBO teaches "a document number for uniquely

identifying the message is indicated in field 308"; **col. 23, lines 58 – 59.** Further,

"the files and messages … may be numbered or identified … as by a

combination of numbers *with an identifier for the date when the message was*

received. Also, the documents number or identifier may be unique for each file

or message directed to a user or, alternatively, may be unique for each file or

message directed to a plurality of users"; **col. 23, line 62 – col. 24, line 1.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that fax documents are categorized by a "document number" (or "serial number") which may be based on the date when the message was received.

Fig. 21 illustrates the results of a search query as presented as a "user interface" listing three facsimile documents by "document number".

However, BOBO does not specifically teach a "serial number" based on both "date *and time* of receipt".

BOBO does teach categorizing a message by both "date" and "time" as these are shown in **Fig. 17** as **303** and **304**, respectively.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate a serial number (i.e., "document number") based on both "date" and "time" to more clearly differentiate incoming messages, especially, if many messages were received on the same date.**].**

Regarding claim 13, BOBO further teaches the system in accordance with claim 12 wherein

said categorization module generates a sequence number for each

individual fax page, which is used to uniquely identify each fax page in the

system

[BOBO teaches that a page of a facsimile message may be accessed by a

combination of a "message identifier" and a "page identifier" which would

correspond to a unique sequence number, and cites, "The request from the user

will include the mailbox number for the user, the message identifier, display

preferences, and if the message is a facsimile message, a page identifier"; **col.**

8, lines 39 - 42].

32.   Claims 25 - 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

BOBO [US Patent 5,870,549] in view of **JOHNSON [US Patent 5,664,109]**.

As for claim 25, BOBO teaches a method for receiving a plurality of fax documents from

a plurality of remote fax devices in a hospital environment, said method comprising the

steps of:

receiving a plurality of fax documents from a plurality of remote fax

machines and *from a pre-admission testing department within said*

hospital, **each fax document relating to a corresponding patient scheduled**

for an in-hospital procedure;

[**Fig. 13** "central processor" **3;** "The central processor 3 receives the calls on the

DID trunks 15 and stores the messages in storage 11 in accordance with

software 7"; **col. 16, lines 57 - 59],**

obtaining an image of each received fax document;

splitting image of each page of a received fax document into a separately

identifiable image portion so that an image of each page in a fax document

is separately and independently identifiable

[With regards to **Fig. 2,** BOBO teaches "when a facsimile message is received,

the MSDS 10, at step 54, will update the total listing of all messages to indicate

the newly received message and may additionally generate HTML files for the

newly received facsimile message according to the user's preferences. When

the user later requests information on the message at step 76, the HTML

information has already been generated and the MSDS 10 may directly send the

requested information to the user at step 80"; **col. 9, lines 36 – 44.**

BOBO later refers to this mode of operation as a "synchronous mode of

communication" (**col. 19, lines 18 – 28**) and cites, "When a request for

information is then later received by the HTTPD 37, the information has already

been generated and the HTTPD 37 only needs to retrieve the information from

storage 11 and transmit the information to the user's computer 32"; **col. 19, lines**

22 – 27.

A "fax page splitting" process is shown in **Fig. 6** in which a facsimile message is converted into HTML files. "With reference to FIG. 6, when the facsimile message is received, the message is in a Tagged Image File Format/Facsimile (TIFF/F) and each page of the facsimile message is split into a separate file. Each page of the facsimile message is then converted from the TIFF/F format into a Portable Pixel Map (PPM) format. The PPM files are next converted into separate Graphic Interchange Format (GIF) files and then into separate HTML files. Thus, each page of the facsimile message is converted into a separate HTML file"; **col. 12, lines 9 – 18.** Furthermore, "each page of the facsimile message is saved as a separate file with an extension defined by the format of the file. Thus, the files will end with an extension of '.TIFF', '.PPM', '.GIF' or '.HTML' according to the format of the particular file"; **col. 12, lines 40 - 44];**

displaying to at least one user said images of each page of a received fax document

[BOBO teaches a document display as shown in **Fig. 7.** Each page is "independently manageable" since in this "fifth option" display mode (**col. 13, lines 12 - 21**), each page is displayed separately. BOBO teaches a way to "navigate" to the "next page" by providing a "link"; **col. 13, lines 19 - 20];**

providing an interface <u>at a document attribute manager</u> for said user so as to allow said user to assign a unique set of attributes to said fax document <u>related to at least one feature contained on at least one of said facsimile documents</u>, *said unique set of attributes relating to a patient information* [BOBO further teaches that "the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

"An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date", "time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document number", and "other fields" **309.**

When the "document type" is a facsimile message (**col. 23, line 51**), the related attributes "recipient's name" **301**, "date" **303**, "time" **304**, "caller's telephone number" **305** and "number of pages" **307** are *"features"* typically *contained* on a facsimile document.

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a *company*, the company may want to classify messages according to the division at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales, one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 - 24];**

allowing said user to search said fax documents in accordance to at least one attribute [[~~within~~]] <u>using</u> said unique set of attributes <u>set from said document attribute module</u>

[When the MSDS is used as a file repository, BOBO teaches that a facsimile message may be retrieved by searching "data entries" **300** (i.e., "attributes" shown in **Fig. 17**) "through a structured query language (SQL)"; **col. 23, lines 39 – 41].**

However, BOBO *does not specifically teach*

receiving a plurality of fax documents *from a pre-admission testing*

***department within said hospital,* each fax document relating to a**

corresponding patient scheduled for an in-hospital procedure;

and ***said unique set of attributes relating to a patient information***

JOHNSON teaches a "central medical record repository for a managed health care

organization" (**abstract**) and cites, "The data repository engine 200 receives hardcopy

or softcopy reports from medical service providers. Hardcopies of medical reports are

sent by mail or transmitted by facsimile"; **col. 6, lines 44 – 47.**

As noted previously, BOBO teaches that "the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository

serving as an archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine teachings of JOHNSON with those of BOBO so that a

"pre-admission testing department within a hospital" could send patient information (with

"patient attributes", like, the patient's name) by means of a facsimile document to the

MSDS file repository.

Regarding claim 26, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 25

further comprising

[[the]] a step of receiving an *additional fax document* relating to a previously defined unique set of attributes

[With respect to a "first fax document" (i.e., document #11) as shown in **Fig. 21**, BOBO illustrates the reception of a second and a third fax document. Each document is shown listed with an attribute of the recipient's names (i.e., "Jane Doe")];

and providing an interface to allow said user to assign said previously defined set of attributes to said [[second]] additional fax document

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG. 17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 45.**

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date",

"time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document

number", and "other fields" **309.**

BOBO teaches that the "other fields" can be used to customize the MSDS

(Message Storage and Delivery System). "For instance, if the user is a

company, the company may want to classify messages according to the division

at which the message is directed, such as one code for marketing, one for sales,

one for engineering, and one for legal"; **col. 24, lines 20 – 24.**

The ability to customize the MSDS for a user's needs exemplifies an interface

allowing a user to assign previously defined attributes to _an additional_ fax

document**],**

such that images of pages of each of said fax documents are accessible to

said user

[BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72,

the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 –**

36. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the

message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile

message, _a page identifier_"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43].**

Regarding claim 27, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 26

further comprising

> **[[the]] a step of providing an edit interface to allow a user to either remove**
>
> **or delete** ~~anyone~~ **any one of said images of a page within a received fax**
>
> **document**
>
> [BOBO teaches, "the user may be provided with a greater or fewer number of
>
> options in displaying and retrieving messages. The options are not limited to the
>
> exact forms provided but may permit the user to review or retrieve the message
>
> in other formats. The options may also permit a user to join two messages into a
>
> single message, _to delete portions of a message_ ..."; **col. 20, lines 24 - 30**].

Regarding claim 28, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim _26_

further comprising

> **[[the]] a step of assigning a unique fax number for a corresponding**
>
> **_hospital_, such that a plurality of _hospitals_ can receive a plurality of fax**
>
> **documents**
>
> [An MSDS (Message Storage and Delivery System) is shown in **Fig. 13**. BOBO
>
> teaches that the MSDS associates a fax telephone number and e-mail address
>
> for each "user".

With reference to **Fig. 1**, "with each call on the DID trunk 15, an address signal indicating the telephone number being called is provided to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 18 – 20.**

With reference to **Fig. 2**, "a telephone call directed to a number serviced by the MSDS 10 is initiated at step 40 by a third party, for instance, through the facsimile machine 24"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 56.** "At step 42, the address signal associated with the initiated call is routed through the central office 20, over the DID trunk 15, and to the MSDS 10"; **col. 7, lines 59 -61.** "The intended recipient of the message uses the services provided by the MSDS 10 and will hereinafter be referred to as a user"; **col. 8, lines 5 – 7.**

Therefore, BOBO teaches that the MSDS assigns a fax number to a "user" (i.e., an "entity")**]**;

and providing an interface to each of said *hospitals* such that each entity can have access to fax documents sent to its corresponding unique fax number
[BOBO teaches that the MSDS provides a "document presentation" means as shown in **Fig. 7.** This figure shows a sample display of the first page of a facsimile message or document. The corresponding HTML code which

references the ".GIF" image file (of the first page) is cited on **col. 13, lines 24 -**

60].

BOBO does not specifically teach the _entity_ as a _hospital_. However, as noted for claim

25, JOHNSON teaches that an _entity_ such as a _hospital_ can send facsimile documents

of medical records to a central document repository. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine

the teachings of JOHNSON with those of BOBO and assign unique fax numbers to

"MSDS member" hospitals so that patient records (i.e., fax documents) could be sent

and shared among medical providers.

Regarding claim 29, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 28

further comprising

> **[[the]] a step of assigning a unique fax number to a corresponding**
>
> **department**
>
> [BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a _group of_
>
> _users_, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10
>
> may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for a particular user or
>
> group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

> With respect to **Fig. 17** and the "other fields" **309** of a "data entry" **300**, BOBO
>
> later teaches that the "other fields 309 may also be used by a user to customize

the MSDS 10 according to his or her own desires. For instance, <u>if the user is a</u>

<u>company</u>, the company may want to classify messages according to the division

at which the message is directed"; **col. 24, lines 18 – 22.** BOBO gives examples

of individual departments as "marketing", "sales", "engineering" and "legal"]

and a corresponding member within said department for each of said

hospitals

[BOBO teaches that a user (i.e. an "entity") may be a particular user or a *group of*

users, and cites, "According to another aspect of the invention, the MSDS 10

may be used as a file repository serving as an archive for <u>a particular user</u> or

<u>group of users</u>"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12].**

Regarding claim 30, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with clam 29

further comprising

> **[[the]] a step of storing each of said received fax documents in a storage**
>
> **unit such that each image of each page of a received fax document is**
>
> **independently retrievable**
>
> [As shown in **Fig. 13**, BOBO teaches a "storage" **11** for storing facsimile
>
> messages. As mentioned above, this "storage" contains separate files for each
>
> page of the facsimile message.

BOBO further teaches that "after a user gains access to the mailbox at step 72,

the user can request information stored within the MSDS 10"; **col. 8, lines 35 –**

36. "The request from the user will include the mailbox number for the user, the

message identifier, display preferences, and, if the message is a facsimile

message, *a page identifier*"; **col. 8, lines 40 - 43].**

Regarding claim 31, BOBO further teaches the method in accordance with claim 30,

further comprising

[[the]] a step of providing an interface to allow a user to search for said

images of each page of received fax documents in accordance with an

attribute within said unique attribute set

["An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each

message having a separate data entry 300. Preferably, the data entries 300 are

stored in a relational database and may be searched through a structured query

language (SQL).

As shown in FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous

data fields for describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise a

field 301 for indicating the name of the person receiving the message"; **col. 23,**

lines 36 – 45.

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date",

"time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document

number", and "other fields" **309].**

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments filed **6/23/2008** have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive.

With respect to applicant's argument that BOBO does not teach or suggest

> *a document attribute module which allows a user to associate each incoming*
>
> *fax document to a unique attribute set related to at least one feature*
>
> *contained on at least one of the facsimile documents*
>
> *and where each of the pages is individually retrievable using the unique*
>
> *attribute set from the document attribute module*

has been considered.

In reply:

BOBO teaches that "the MSDS 10 may be used as a file repository serving as an

archive for a particular user or group of users"; **col. 23, lines 10 – 12.**

"An example of a data entry 300 in storage 11 for a message is shown in FIG.

17. The data entry 300 represents the entry for just a single message with each

message having a separate data entry 300"; **col. 23, lines 36 – 39.** "As shown in

FIG. 17, the data field 300 for a message may comprise numerous data fields for

describing the message. One of these data fields may comprise <u>a field 301 for</u>

<u>indicating the name of the person receiving the message</u>"; **col. 23, lines 42 – 45.**

In **Fig. 17**, BOBO further illustrates other "attributes" as "document type", "date",

"time", "caller's telephone number", "file size", "number of pages", "document

number", and "other fields" **309.**

<u>When the "document type" is a facsimile message (**col. 23, line 51**), the related</u>

<u>attributes "recipient's name" **301**, "date" **303**, "time" **304**, "caller's telephone</u>

<u>number" **305** and "number of pages" **307** are *"features"* typically *contained* on a</u>

<u>facsimile document</u>.

When the MSDS is used as a file repository, BOBO teaches that "preferably, the

data entries 300 are stored in a relational database and may be searched

through a structured query language (SQL)"; **col. 23, lines 39 - 41**. That is, a

facsimile message may be retrieved by searching "data entries" **300** (i.e.,

"attributes" shown in **Fig. 17**) "through a structured query language (SQL)".

That is, BOBO teaches *a document attribute module which allows a user to*

associate each incoming fax document to a unique attribute set related to at

least one feature contained on at least one of the facsimile documents (i.e.,

one or more attributes shown in **Fig. 17**) *and where each of the pages is*

individually retrievable using the unique attribute set from the document

attribute module (i.e., by searching "data entries" or "attributes" through

structured query language).

Conclusion

33.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Peter L. Cheng whose telephone number is 571-270-

3007. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 6:00

PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, King Y. Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

plc
October 12, 2008